



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 9, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

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TEACHER EVALUATION TASK FORCE SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETINGS (GO TO TOP)

The Idaho Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force will host regional meetings throughout October to present its initial recommendations for implementing statewide minimum standards on how teachers are evaluated.

With support from the Idaho Legislature and Governor Otter, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna created the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force in May 2008 to develop statewide minimum standards that will ensure teacher evaluations across the state are conducted through a fair, objective, reliable, valid and transparent process. The task force includes representatives from all major stakeholder groups in education, including teachers, principals, superintendents, school board members, parents, business representatives and legislators.

"I am proud of the task force's diligent work to develop standards that will help improve the craft of teaching across the state by providing Idaho teachers with a fair and consistent evaluation process," Superintendent Luna said. "The members of this task force have worked tirelessly over the past five months to create this plan, and I encourage Idaho teachers, school administrators, parents and other citizens to join us for these regional public meetings where they can hear the proposal and provide feedback."

The task force's initial recommendations are based on the framework created by Charlotte Danielson, a nationally renowned expert in teacher quality and evaluation. Under these proposed minimum standards, teachers across the state would be evaluated based on four areas, referred to as domains:

1. Planning and Preparation
2. Learning Environment
3. Instruction and Use of Assessment



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4. Professional Responsibilities

If these minimum standards are approved, each Idaho school district and charter school will have the flexibility to create its own evaluation tool that meets the unique needs of that district while still being aligned to these statewide standards. Several school districts already have quality evaluation processes in place to meet these standards.

"The fair evaluation of teachers is fundamental to their growth and effectiveness in the classroom. I am very pleased with the process this task force has taken to face this issue and develop a plan, which will set standards while still allowing local districts flexibility to design their own tool," said Senator John Goedde, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee and a member of the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force. "Key to this process is funding professional development for administrators tasked with conducting evaluations and for teachers to know their expectations. I look forward to taking public input on these standards."

Sherri Wood, President of the Idaho Education Association, also applauded the task force's efforts. "The Teacher Evaluation Task Force has given us an opportunity to learn a great deal about this important issue," Wood said. "Teachers are always looking for ways to improve their practice and it is our hope that by having a state evaluation framework; teachers and administrators will be offered the professional development and training they need to help all the children they work with. Professional development and flexibility for local control are the keys to making the work of the task force successful."

Staff from the State Department of Education and task force members will present these initial recommendations at the public meetings scheduled throughout October. Teachers, parents, school administrators and the general public are encouraged to attend these meetings, ask questions and give feedback on how the plan could be improved. The Task Force will meet again in November to take the public comments into consideration before finalizing a proposal to submit to the Idaho Legislature in January 2009.

Here is the schedule of public meetings for the Teacher Performance Evaluation (*Please note all meetings will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m.*):

- October 8: Sandpoint High School auditorium, 410 S. Division Street, Sandpoint
- October 9: Lewis-Clark State College, TCC Library, Lewiston
- October 15: *Location to be determined*, Nampa
- October 16: Coeur d'Alene School District, Midtown Center Board Room, Coeur d'Alene
- October 20: Meridian School District Office, Lochsa Room, Meridian
- October 22: *Location to be determined*, Idaho Falls
- October 23: Pocatello/Chubbuck School District office, Board Room, Pocatello
- October 28: O'Leary Junior High School, Library, Twin Falls

To read the entire proposal or to submit comments online, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/>.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education will be hosting monthly workshops, presented via webinars, based on the *Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools* through the 2008-2009 school year. The workshops are available to all interested educators and educational stakeholders.



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Meeting the needs of all learners requires coordination of resources. This month's topic will be an overview of a research-based system of school organization called the 3-Tier Model. The 3-Tier Model is the basis for Idaho's School Improvement process and includes ongoing data utilization, instructional focus, alignment, and collaboration. Two separate sessions will be presented on October 28, 2008: The 10 a.m. webinar will be geared towards implementing the model at the elementary level; the 3 p.m. session will be focused on the needs of secondary schools. Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement and School Accountability Marybeth Flachbart will be facilitating both sessions.

The webinars are being offered through Idaho Digital Learning Academy's IdahoLive program. Participants of IdahoLive sessions are able to speak with one another via computer microphones or phone connection, communicate by text and video, share computer screens with one another. IdahoLive is a virtual classroom. To register for the webinars, please visit <http://idla.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp> and click on the "IdahoLive" tab. *Participants are also encouraged to register for one of the many IdahoLive training sessions prior to the 3-Tier workshop.*

UPDATE ON CLASSROOM SUPPLIES FUNDING (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education would like to remind school districts and charter schools that Gifted/Talented Facilitators should be included in the annual classroom supplies funding. When the Department distributes classroom supplies money to the districts and charters, Gifted/Talented Facilitators are included in the amount distributed. The Public School Finance staff calculates the funding based on the "teacher" FTEs that are reported in IBEDS as of the last Friday in September. This includes IBEDS assignment codes 00001 thru 31999, and 51001 through 73999. Gifted/Talented Facilitators are codes 31510 thru 31540; therefore, they should also receive \$350 a year in classroom supplies funding. The full listing of IBEDS assignment codes is available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/ibeds/docs/forms/Assignment%20Code%20Listing%20-%20All%20Grades.pdf>.

If you have questions about coding in IBEDS, please contact Myrna Holgate at (208) 332-6844 or MLHolgate@sde.idaho.gov. If you have questions about the classroom supplies funding or permissible uses, please contact Melissa McGrath at (208) 332-6818 or MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov.

SDE WILL STAY OPEN ON COLUMBUS DAY (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education will remain open on Columbus Day, October 13, 2008. Even though Columbus Day is a state holiday, Idaho's public schools and districts remain open on this day. Therefore, in an effort to create a more customer-drive public education system, Superintendent Luna is keeping the Department operating on Columbus Day and Veterans Day this year -- two holidays that schools and districts do not take off -- so SDE employees are on hand to provide customer service and technical assistance while schools are open. In exchange, SDE employees will take holidays on the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve, when schools are not in session.

Please feel free to contact the Department or Department staff as needed on Columbus Day. If you plan to stop by the office in person, please note that only one entrance to the building will be open on the East side of the building.



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SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the Dual Credit Task Force meeting on Monday, October 13 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force public meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Nampa.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force public meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Coeur d'Alene.
- Superintendent Luna will appear on KVNI radio to discuss education issues at 7:20 a.m. on Friday, October 17 in Coeur d'Alene.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Don't forget: IRI REPORTING DEADLINE** -- Please remember the deadline for schools to report Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) scores to the State Department of Education is **October 15, 2008**. If you have any questions about reporting, please contact Stephanie Martin at (208) 332-6903 or SMartin@sde.idaho.gov before this date so she can assist you.
- **Spirit of Community Awards** -- In the past 13 years, more than 600 middle and high school students across Idaho have received Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These awards, presented nationwide by Prudential Financial Inc., in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), honor outstanding community service by young people in grades 5 through 12. Applications must be completed by **October 31, 2008**. Please visit www.prudential.com/spirit or at www.principals.org/prudential for more details.
- **Alternate Authorization requests** -- The deadline to submit Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests is **December 4, 2008**. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. You can mail applications to:
State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Oravez
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
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- **Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award** -- The National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) and Toyota are presenting the Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award, which will be given to educators who demonstrate exemplary efforts to help parents and children achieve their academic and non-academic goals. The 2009 Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year will receive a \$7,500 award for his/her program, courtesy of Toyota. He/she also will receive a trip to the 18th Annual National Conference on Family Literacy in Orlando,



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Florida, where he/she will be recognized during the Opening General Session. Nominations will be accepted online through **December 5, 2008**. Please visit <http://www.famlit.org/toyotateacher> for nomination guidelines.

NEWS FROM STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (GO TO TOP)

The Idaho State Board of Education is meeting in Lewiston on Thursday, October 9, 2008. To view the State Board meeting agenda, please visit www.boardofed.idaho.gov. Please check in the October 16, 2008 edition of the Weekly E-Newsletter for updates on State Board decisions.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **We Are Family Conference** -- The 2009 We Are Family Conference for Idahoans with disabilities and their families will be held January 13-16, 2009 in Boise. The conference is sponsored by the Idaho State Independent Living Council, Idaho Parents Unlimited and the Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. For more information, please visit <http://www.silc.idaho.gov/>.
- **Lincoln Bicentennial** -- Schools have several opportunities to take part in the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration. Here are some of the ways in which schools can participate: collect Pennies for Lincoln, enter the Abraham Lincoln Essay Contest, access the available lesson plans, participate in a teacher seminar, view the Lincoln Traveling Museum Exhibit. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social_studies/ to learn more.
- **Virtues Conference 2008** -- Northwest Nazarene University and the Idaho ASCD invite teachers, counselors and administrators to participate in the Virtues conference, which will be held November 20-21, 2008 on the NNU campus in Nampa. Inspiring speakers and founders of The Virtues Project Linda Kavelin Popov and Dr. Dan Popov will help you create a school environment that includes: student leadership, stress reduction for test fatigue, creating an environment for academic excellence, a 90-day plan for positive change and ways to transform classroom and school violence to virtues. To find out more about and to register for the conference go to <http://www.nnu.edu/virtues>.
- **Education News Parents Can Use** -- The U.S. Department of Education hosts a regular TV series about ways to ensure children's educational success. The next "Education News Parents Can Use" broadcast, focusing on safeguarding America's colleges, is scheduled for October 21, 2008 (8 p.m. ET). For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>.
- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil. Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil.



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- **Spanish for working professionals** – Northwest Nazarene University Center for Professional Development is offering “Introduction to Spanish for the Working Professional,” a course designed to introduce working professionals to the fundamentals of cross-cultural communication and establish strong speaking, reading, listening and writing skills in Spanish. Online registration and more information can be found at www.nnu.edu/pdcourses or by calling (208) 467-8495.
- **Early Years 2008 conference** – The Early Years 2008 conference will be held November 18-19, 2008 at Boise State University for parents and early childhood professionals from an array of disciplines. The conference will highlight the many interrelated aspects of growth that impact a child’s development. For more information or to register, please visit www.idahochild.org.
- **Curricular Materials Caravan** – The Curricular Materials Caravan will start traveling throughout the state in October for newly approved math and professional-technical education materials. Please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/meetings_events/ to learn more and to view dates and locations of the Caravan.
- **Secretary of State offers opportunity for 17-year-old students** – In Idaho, if a student is 17 years old and a U.S. citizen, they can serve as a poll worker on Election Day. Please visit <http://www.idahovotes.gov/Clerk.htm> to find out how you can contact your local county clerk and ask for more information. Student poll workers are paid for their time.
- **2008 Idaho Student Mock Election** – Secretary of State Ben Ysursa invites your high school to participate in the 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election. This online voting exercise has been developed in cooperation with the State Department of Education to instill an appreciation and importance of voting in Idaho’s young people. Any high school government class is welcome to participate. The 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election will be available for two days only: Thursday, October 23 and Friday, October 24. For more details, please visit <http://www.sos.idaho.gov/isme/ISMEIndex.jsp>. To participate, please e-mail a list of interested teachers and their school e-mail addresses to isme@sos.idaho.gov or call (208) 334-2852.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Oct. 15, 2008** – The deadline for schools to register for the National Geographic Bee, a contest designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Principals of schools with any of the grades 4-8 are eligible to register their schools to receive contest materials for a school-level Bee. For complete information on the Bee, visit www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee.
- **Oct. 15, 2008** – The deadline for school districts to submit the Annual Title I-A Comparability Report. This is an annual requirement for all Districts. The forms can be found at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/#annual_reports and must be submitted as email attachments and sent to Susan Hansen at SCHansen@sde.idaho.gov. Minor changes have been made to the forms; if there are questions please contact Susan at (208) 332-6900.



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- **Oct. 15, 2008** – The deadline for schools to let the Idaho Commission on the Arts they are interested in participating in the statewide Poetry Out Loud competition, which will culminate in a state final on February 21, 2009 in Boise. Poetry Out Loud was created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation and is administered by the state art agencies of all 50 states. Schools can fax or e-mail their commitments to the Idaho Commission on the Arts at (208) 334-2488 or e-mail intern@arts.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 20, 2008** – The deadline for schools or districts to submit a Letter of Intent to apply for FY2011 Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program funds. SR2S projects may include engineering solutions and must include education, enforcement, encouragement and evaluation efforts. Eligible applicants may be state or local governmental and/or non-profit organizations. For more information, visit www.itd.idaho.gov/srts/howtoapply.html.
- **Oct. 24, 2008** – The deadline for submissions in the 2008 Holiday Card Contest. Each year, the State Department of Education sponsors a Holiday Card contest to draw attention to art programs in Idaho's elementary schools. One drawing is selected for the Department's holiday greeting. The child who submits the selected artwork receives cards for his or her own use. Visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click on "Holiday Card Contest" under the Latest News heading to learn more.
- **Oct. 29, 2008** – The deadline to enter the Idaho State Historical Society's photography contest to recognize Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month will highlight the work of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Idaho. The submitted image should show a WPA project, demonstrate the success of the WPA, speak to the magnitude of the WPA, and/or illustrate its importance in Idaho. The competition is open to Idaho high school and college students. For more information, please visit www.idahohistory.net or contact Shelby Day at (208) 334-3847 ext. 109 or shelby.day@ishs.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 IFARMS Annual Financial Report as required by Idaho Code 33-701(7). The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms and supporting documents can be found at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** – The deadline to submit materials for the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Each year, two outstanding student leaders from Idaho are selected as delegates to the program where they will travel to Washington, D.C. with all expenses paid and view their federal government in action, meet with national leaders on Capitol Hill, at the White House, the Supreme Court, the Pentagon and the State Department. Each student also receives a one-time \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators Teachers Scholarships and Classroom Mini-Grants. Awards range from \$200 to \$500. All educators are eligible. See www.nwpe.org for an application.
- **Nov. 1, 2008** -- The deadline for Native American students in Idaho to apply for the Columbia River Professional Chapter, American Indian Science & Engineering Society's annual college/university scholarships. Plans are to award two at \$1,000 each. Applicants must be Native American and residing in Oregon, Washington, or Idaho. For more details and to download an application form, visit www.aiesescrc.org and click on the "Scholarships" link.



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- **Nov. 3, 2008** – The deadline to submit applications for the third annual BubbleWrap® Competition for Young Inventors, sponsored by the Sealed Air Corporation and The National Museum of Education. The contest is open to students in grades 5-8. This innovative contest incorporates national and state academic standards in the fields of engineering design, problem-solving, entrepreneurship and all of the core curricular subjects. Visit www.nmoe.org for more details about the competition. Applications may be received via hard copy mail, email or FAX. If you have further questions, please contact the National Museum of Education at info@nmoe.org or (330) 376-8300.
- **Nov. 7, 2008** – The deadline for elementary schools to apply for a chance to receive one of ten \$15,000 grants from the makers of Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings. Each grant award will support an elementary school in developing a program offering fresh vegetables and fruits lasting through the 2009-10 school year. Each school grant will consist of \$15,000 in direct funding, and a one-time donation of Hidden Valley® Original Ranch® Light Dressing. Funding must be spent on any of the following: Fresh produce, a vegetable station, kitchen equipment, program staffing, nutrition education supplies and/or training. All proposals must be submitted online at www.LoveYourVeggiesGrants.org.
- **Nov. 10, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 Independent Audit Report. Idaho Code 33-701(6), which requires submission of the independent audit report, was modified during the 2008 Legislative Session. Not only was the due date changed from October 15 to November 10, but penalties for late submission were also added. If the SDE has not received your report on or before November 10, your November 15 foundation payment may be withheld until the report is received. Please work with your auditor and school board to ensure submission prior to November 10. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Nov. 14, 2008** -- **The deadline to apply for the** National Excellence in Urban Education Award. The award recognizes the dedication and talent of urban school educators and students, provides a benchmark of excellence that motivates reform efforts and deepens the knowledge base of best practices for promoting urban school transformation. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.ncust.org>.
- **Nov. 28, 2008** – The deadline to enter into the Council for America's First Freedom's 16th annual First Freedom Student Competition. The competition is a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. For more information on this competition, please visit www.firstfreedom.org. Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is November 28, 2008.
- **Dec. 8, 2008** -- The deadline for school to apply for the National School or District of Character award by the Character Education Partnership (CEP). The purpose of the award is to honor these exemplars and facilitate their leadership in the field of character education. Visit www.character.org/nsoc for more information.
- **Dec. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants. Teachers who are new to the profession, their grade level or school district are eligible to apply. See www.nwpe.org for an application.



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- **Jan. 20, 2008** -- The deadline for students to enter the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national video documentary competition, which is open to middle school and high school students (grades 6-12). This year C-SPAN asks students to create a 5- to 8-minute video documentary that addresses an issue of national significance. For more information, please visit www.studentcam.org. If you have any questions, e-mail emartin@c-span.org or call (800) 523-7586.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** – The Idaho Dropout Summit has been scheduled at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. More details to come.